



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 223 13-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/892,159	06/26/2001	Paul G. Allen	4000.2.64	2383
32641	7590	12/08/2004	EXAMINER	
DIGEO, INC C/O STOEL RIVES LLP 201 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 1100 ONE UTAH CENTER SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84111			PARSONS, CHARLES E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2613	

DATE MAILED: 12/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/892,159

Applicant(s)

ALLEN, PAUL G.

Examiner

Charles E Parsons

Art Unit

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13-30, 33-40 and 43-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 12, 31, 32, 41, 42 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 2613

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 21, 22, 41, 42, and 61-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yonezawa in view of Tullberg.

Claims 1, 21, 41, 61-63 : A method for providing access to cached video footage from multiple networked video cameras, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of live video streams, each live video stream being generated by a video camera associated with a different terminal in a network; (See Yonezawa column 7

lines 14-19 as well as column 8 lines 38-44.)

simultaneously displaying the plurality of live video streams on a first terminal; (See figure 5A)

detecting a user selection of one of the live video streams being displayed; (See Yonezawa column 19 lines 45-59)

obtaining an earlier-in-time cached segment of the selected live video stream', and playing back the cached segment on the first terminal. (While Yonezawa is not explicit about obtaining a cached segment, Tullberg is See figure 1 item 40. At the time the invention was made, displaying cached video was well known in the art. Viewing stored video allowed a user to see events that took place prior to live viewing of camera streams. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, to display cached video when selecting a camera to display to make the invention as claimed.

Art Unit: 2613

Claim 2, 22, 42. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one video camera comprises a webcam. (At the time the invention was made web cams were well known and widely used. Furthermore the specification does not disclose that the use of a web cam provides any particular advantage over that of any other camera in the prior art, therefore it is considered a matter of obvious design choice.)

3. Claims 3-10, 13-20, 23-30, 34-40, 43-40, and 43-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yonezawa and Tullberg as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Dureau.

Claim 3, 23, 43: The method of claim 1, wherein at least one terminal comprises an interactive television system. (While Yonezawa does not teach that his system is used as part of an interactive television system, at the time the invention was made it was well known that multiple video streams were sent via an interactive television system for subsequent selection by a user see Dureau abstract. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a interactive television system for the simultaneous display of multiple video sources motivated by the teaching of Dureau that the television medium has a higher available bandwidth over typical internet connections see column 1 lines 41-55)

Claim 4, 24, 44. The method of claim 1, further comprising: caching the plurality of live video streams within at least one storage device. (See Tullberg figure 1 item 50.)

Claim 5, 25, 45. The method of claim 4, wherein at least one live video stream is cached by the terminal from which the live video stream originated. (See Tullberg figure 1 item 50)

Claim 6, 26, 46. The method of claim 4, wherein at least one live video stream is cached by the first terminal. (See Yonezawa figure 1 item 126)

Claim 7, 27, 47. The method of claim 4, wherein at least one live video stream is cached by an intermediate network node linking the first terminal and the terminal from which the live video stream originated. (At the time the invention was made it was well known that video data was cached at the head end for processing and forwarding onto the particular requesting terminal, therefore caching of video data at that location is inherent because it is required.)

Claim 8, 28, 48: The method of claim 7, wherein the intermediate network node comprises one of a cable head-end and a satellite broadcast center. (See Dureau column 6 lines 32-45)

Claim 9, 29, 49. The method of claim 1, wherein the network comprises one of a cable network or a satellite network. (See Dureau column 6 lines 32-45)

Claim 10, 30, 40: The method of claim 1, wherein displaying comprises arranging the plurality of live video streams in a grid format on the first terminal. (See Yonezawa figure 5A as well as Dureau figure 3 item 340.)

Claim 13, 33, 43. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining comprises; obtaining the cached segment from the terminal from which the selected live video stream originated. (See Tullberg figure 1 item 50)

Claim 14, 34, 44: The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining comprises; obtaining the cached segment from an intermediate network node linking the first terminal and the terminal from which the selected live video stream originated. (At the time the invention was made it was well known that video data was cached at the head end for processing and forwarding onto the particular requesting terminal, therefore caching of video data at that location is inherent because it is required.)

Art Unit: 2613

Claim 15, 35, 55. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining comprises obtaining the cached segment from a storage device integrated with the first terminal. (See Yonezawa figure 1 item 126)

Claim 16, 17, 36, 37, 56, 57: The method of claim 1, wherein playing back the cached segment comprises; enlarging the cached segment as displayed on the first terminal relative to the live video streams. (At the time the invention was made it was well known to enlarge the selected segment in order to show the user the selected video content. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to enlarge said cached segment in order to make the invention as claimed, motivated by the desire to allow the user a larger view of the selected video.) Official Notice Served

Claim 18, 38, 58: The method of claim 1, wherein the cached segment comprises a beginning point and an ending point, and wherein playing back the cached segment comprises: playing back the cached segment in reverse direction starting with the ending point thereof. (Reverse playback of video was well known in the art at the time the invention was made. Furthermore once video is stored in can be viewed in any order starting with any point. Therefore it would have been a matter of obvious design choice to play the selected video in reverse.)

19, 39, 59. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving comprises selectively receiving a live video stream based upon a corresponding entry in a video phonebook. (See Yonezawa column 8 lines 27-45 while it is not a video phone book every camera has its own identifier. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a phone number to identify which camera to selectively receive video from since each video source will have a distinct number associated with it.)

20, 40, 60. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting comprises: moving a selection outline around a displayed video stream in response to user activation of navigational buttons on a remote control device', and detecting user activation of a specifically-designated button on the remote control device for providing access to cached video footage. (The use of remote controls with buttons for specific uses was well known. Further more it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a remote control considering that at the time the invention was made, set top boxes for interactive television had remote controls shipped with them.) Official notice served

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 11, 21, 31, 32, 51, 52 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The ticker display of live video streams claimed and illustrated in figure 9 was not found in a prior art search nor considered obvious by the examiner.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles E Parsons whose telephone number is 703-305-3862. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 7AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 703-305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2613

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CEP


CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2300
